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February 23, 2006

**TO:** Transportation Authority of Marin Commissioners

**FROM:** Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director

**RE:** Highway 101 GAP Closure Projects – Status Report – Agenda Item 9

**Belvedere**

Jerry Butler

**Corte Madera**

Melissa Gill

**Fairfax**

Lew Tremaine

**Larkspur**

Joan Lundstrom

**Mill Valley**

Dick Swanson

**Novato**

Pat Eklund

**Ross**

Jeanne Barr

**San Anselmo**

Peter Breen

**San Rafael**

Al Boro

**Sausalito**

Amy Belser

**Tiburon**

Alice Fredericks

**County of Marin**

Susan Adams

Hal Brown

Steve Kinsey

Charles McGlashan

Cynthia Murray

**Executive Summary**

Regarding progress on the various segments of Highway 101's HOV gap Closure through Marin County, the CTC voted the necessary funds to award the Central San Rafael contract and Caltrans is expected to award the contract this month to Ghilotti Brothers, Inc. of San Rafael. Construction is anticipated to start in early March.

Staff has continued refining the design of the multi-use path including access at Linden Avenue, a new undercrossing at the Lincoln Avenue ramps, and the terminus at Mission Avenue and Stevens Place. The aesthetics of the path and these features will be presented at the Board meeting. In addition, staff has further investigated elements of the proposed sound reduction strategy for the highway widening project. The two major sound reduction elements are use of open graded asphalt concrete on the highway and use of a sound absorptive surface on the sound walls. Anticipated benefits of open graded asphalt concrete and recommendations regarding the preferred sound absorption system and soundwall aesthetics will be presented at the Board meeting. **Recommendation: Provide authorization for staff to present the recommended sound absorption strategy and aesthetic options for the multi-use path and soundwalls to the community at a public information meeting on March 8, 2006.**

**Central San Rafael – Contract Award**

On February 3, 2006, the CTC approved \$11.8M in additional funds to award the Central San Rafael Highway 101 Carpool Lane Gap Closure Project to Ghilotti Brothers, Inc. of San Rafael. The \$11.8 M was funded as follows:

- \$7.66M STIP (Marin County Shares)
- \$1.0M SHOPP
- \$3.12M G12

Caltrans is expected to award the contract in February. It is expected that construction will start in March, 2006.

**Making the Most of Marin County Transportation Dollars**

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A public information meeting regarding the project is scheduled for March 2, 2006 at the San Rafael Community Center on B Street. The meeting format will be an Open House and the public will have an opportunity to learn about the project, what to expect during construction and the construction staging and detours. A ground breaking ceremony is scheduled for early March.

#### **Puerto Suello Hill – Multi Use Path**

TAM staff and the Nolte design team have proceeded with refining the design of the multi-use path with the approval of the base alignment at the December 15, 2005 meeting and other project elements approved at the January 26, 2006 meeting including:

- The terminus of the path at Stevens Place and Mission Avenue
- A “break-away” path at Linden Avenue to provide an access point for the Lincoln Avenue and Dominican communities
- A new undercrossing option at the Lincoln Avenue ramps

Staff is seeking authorization to present the aesthetics of these elements at a public information meeting on March 8, 2006 at the City of San Rafael City Council Chambers.

The schedule for including these elements into the Caltrans Highway design project is as follows:

- Type Selection for structures – February 2006
- 95% Level of Design Complete - April 2006
- Bid Ready Package – June 2006
- Begin Construction with Mainline Project – January 15, 2007
- Complete Construction of Project – December, 2008

#### **Puerto Suello Hill - Sound Reduction Strategy**

Staff and the Nolte design team are continuing to assemble information on expected benefits and best practices for using open graded asphalt on the highway, and to evaluate viable options to include sound absorption materials on the east and west sound walls. The team will present their findings and recommendations at the Board meeting. Staff is seeking authorization to present the findings and recommendations to the community at a public information meeting on March 8, 2006 at the City of San Rafael City Council Chambers.

#### **Recommendation**

Provide authorization for staff to present the recommended sound absorption strategy and aesthetic options for the multi-use path and soundwalls to the community at a public information meeting on March 8, 2006.